



School Safety and Student Discipline

What responsibilities do teachers and other instructional personnel have regarding school safety and student discipline?

To manage student behavior and provide for the safety of students, teachers and other instructional personnel are required to:

- ❖ Set and enforce reasonable classroom rules that treat all students equitably.¹
- ❖ Maintain an orderly and disciplined classroom with a positive learning environment that maximizes learning and minimizes disruption.²
- ❖ Seek professional development to improve classroom management skills if data³ shows they are ineffective in handling minor classroom disruptions.⁴
- ❖ Work with parents and other school personnel to solve discipline problems in their classrooms.⁵
- ❖ Report any known or suspected crimes of violence on school property or credible threats of such violence on school property.⁶

Furthermore, teachers and other instructional personnel may:

- ❖ Remove students from class if their behavior interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate or if they are disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive. A student may not be returned to the teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless it is determined by a placement review committee⁷ that returning the student to the teacher's class is the best or only available alternative.⁸
- ❖ Request and receive immediate assistance if a student becomes uncontrollable.⁹
- ❖ Recommend an appropriate consequence consistent with the code of student conduct when sending a student to the principal's office.¹⁰

¹ Section 1003.32(2)(a), F.S.

² Section 1003.32(2)(c), F.S.

³ The assessment criteria used to evaluate instructional personnel must include the ability to maintain appropriate discipline. Section 1012.34(3)(a), F.S.

⁴ Section 1003.32(2)(b), F.S.

⁵ Section 1003.32(2)(d), F.S.

⁶ Section 1003.32(8), F.S.

⁷ Each school must establish a placement review committee whenever a teacher withholds consent for a student to return to his or her class. The teacher and the placement review committee must render decisions within 5 days of the student's removal from the classroom. The teacher may appeal to the school superintendent if the placement review committee's decision is contrary to the teacher's decision to withhold consent for the student to return to the teacher's classroom. Section 1003.32(6), F.S.

⁸ Section 1003.32(1)(c), (3), (4), and (5), F.S.

⁹ Section 1003.32(1)(g), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1003.32(3), F.S.

- ❖ Use corporal punishment¹¹ according to school district¹² and statutory procedures. Such procedures include requirements for teachers to receive approval from the school principal before administering corporal punishment and for the presence of another adult during the administration of such punishment. District school boards have the authority to prohibit the use of corporal punishment if a written program of alternative control or discipline is adopted.¹³ During the 2007-08 academic year, 30 school districts reported students receiving corporal punishment.¹⁴
- ❖ Request and receive training and other assistance to improve skills in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution, and related areas.¹⁵
- ❖ Press charges if there is a reason to believe that a crime has been committed on school property, during school-sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities.¹⁶

What responsibilities do principals have regarding school safety and student discipline?

Subject to law and the rules of the State Board of Education, principals are required to:

- ❖ Use appropriate discipline and management techniques consistent with the code of student conduct.¹⁷
- ❖ Fully support the authority of each teacher and school bus driver to remove disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students from the classroom and the school bus and place the students in an alternate education setting.¹⁸
- ❖ Implement a teacher's recommended disciplinary consequence or a more serious disciplinary action if warranted by the student's disciplinary history. If the principal determines that a lesser disciplinary action is appropriate, the principal must consult with the teacher prior to taking that action.¹⁹
- ❖ Enforce court-ordered prohibitions against a student offender attending a victim's school or riding a victim's school bus.²⁰

¹¹ "Corporal punishment" means the moderate use of physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal as may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce school rule. The term does not include the use of reasonable force by a teacher or principal necessary to protect themselves or other students from disruptive behavior. Section 1003.01(7), F.S.

¹² A district school board that has a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment must review its policy once every three years during a school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372, F.S. Section 1002.20(4)(c)2., F.S.

¹³ Section 1006.07(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools, Schoolwide Discipline and Climate, *Trends in Discipline and the Decline in the Use of Corporal Punishment*, at 3 (Feb. 2009), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/word/discipline.doc>.

¹⁵ Section 1003.32(1)(h), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1003.32(1)(i), F.S.

¹⁷ See ss. 1003.32 and 1006.09, F.S.

¹⁸ Sections 1001.54(1)(c) and 1006.09(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁹ Section 1003.32(3), F.S.

²⁰ Sections 1006.09(4) and 1006.13(6), F.S.

- ❖ Document all incidents of crime and violence and use standardized reporting forms to report school safety and discipline data.²¹
- ❖ Include an analysis of suspensions²² and expulsions²³ in the school's annual progress report.²⁴
- ❖ Report quarterly to the superintendent and school board each incidence of a teacher's withholding of consent for the return of a removed student to the teacher's classroom and the disposition of each incident.²⁵
- ❖ Direct all school personnel to report any unlawful use, possession, or sale by a student of any controlled substance, as defined in s. 893.02, F.S.; any counterfeit controlled substance, as defined in s. 831.31, F.S.; any alcoholic beverage, as defined in s. 561.01, F.S.; or model glue.²⁶

Furthermore, principals may:

- ❖ Place students in another classroom, in-school suspension, or a dropout prevention and academic intervention program.²⁷
- ❖ Suspend a student out-of-school in accordance with district school board rules after making a good-faith effort to employ alternative measures, except in emergency or disruptive conditions that require immediate suspension. The principal must report each suspension and the reason for the suspension in writing within 24 hours to the student's parent and superintendent.²⁸
- ❖ Initiate out-of-school suspension proceedings against a student who is formally charged with a felony or a delinquent act, which would be a felony if committed by an adult for an incident which is alleged to have occurred off of school property, if the incident is determined to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare in the school where the student is enrolled.²⁹
- ❖ Recommend to the superintendent the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct, including willful disobedience, open defiance of authority, violence

²¹ Section 1006.09(6) and (7), F.S.

²² "Suspension," also referred to as out-of-school suspension, means the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal or the principal's designee, for a period not to exceed 10 school days and remanding the student to the custody of the student's parent with specific homework assignments for the student to complete. "In-school suspension" means the temporary removal of a student from his or her regular school program and placement in an alternative program under the supervision of district school board personnel for a period not to exceed 10 school days. Section 1003.01(5), F.S.

²³ "Expulsion" means the removal of the rights and obligations of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the district school board for a period not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and 1 additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing educational services and must be reported. Section 1003.01(6), F.S.

²⁴ Section 1006.09(1)(d), F.S.

²⁵ Section 1003.32(6)(b), F.S.

²⁶ Section 1006.09(8), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1003.32(5), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1006.09(1)(b), F.S.

²⁹ Section 1006.09(2), F.S.; rule 6A-1.0956, F.A.C. The determination that the alleged incident will have an adverse impact on the school must be made in an administrative hearing with notice provided to the parents by the school principal. Section 1006.09(2), F.S.

against persons or property, or any other act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school.³⁰

- ❖ Search a student locker or storage area if there is reasonable suspicion that a prohibited or illegally-possessioned substance or object is inside.³¹

What responsibilities do district school boards have regarding student discipline and safety?

In general, district school boards are required to account for all students; establish attendance policies; direct and control students at school; and manage the health, safety, and welfare of students.³² Specific district school board responsibilities include:

- ❖ Adopting suspension and expulsion rules and deciding all cases recommended for expulsion.³³
- ❖ Requiring each student at the time of initial registration at a school in the district to note his or her previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, and juvenile justice actions.³⁴
- ❖ Adopting a code of student conduct.³⁵
- ❖ Providing or contracting for educational services to students in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility.³⁶
- ❖ Prescribing policies and procedures for emergencies and drills.³⁷
- ❖ Conducting a self-assessment of the district's current safety and security practices using the Safety and Security Best Practices developed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.³⁸
- ❖ Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, providing access to suicide prevention education resources to all instructional and administrative personnel as part of the district professional development system.³⁹
- ❖ Providing transportation with the maximum regard for safety and adequate protection of health; requiring a system of progressive discipline for students transported on school buses; and taking corrective measures if a student is violent or blatantly unsafe on a school bus.⁴⁰
- ❖ Requiring each school principal to post in each public K-12 school, in a place readily seen by students, a notice stating that a student's locker or other storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion, for prohibited or illegally possessioned substances or objects.⁴¹
- ❖ Requiring all school district employees and certain outside contractual personnel to meet Level 2 background screening requirements.⁴²

³⁰ Section 1006.09(1)(c), F.S.

³¹ Section 1006.09(9), F.S.

³² Section 1001.42(8)(a), F.S.

³³ Section 1006.07(1)(a), F.S.

³⁴ Section 1006.07(1)(b), F.S.

³⁵ Section 1006.07(2), F.S.

³⁶ Section 1006.07(5), F.S.

³⁷ Section 1006.07(4), F.S.

³⁸ Section 1006.07(6), F.S.

³⁹ Section 1006.07(7), F.S., as created by s. 2, ch. 2010-204, L.O.F.

⁴⁰ Sections 1006.10(2) and (7) and 1006.22, F.S.

⁴¹ Section 1006.09(9), F.S.

Furthermore, district school boards are authorized to:

- ❖ Prohibit the use of corporal punishment if a written program of alternative control or discipline is adopted.⁴³
- ❖ Implement, by resolution, a student crime watch program.⁴⁴
- ❖ Require Level 2 background screening for volunteers and other individuals not employed by, or under contract with, the school district.⁴⁵

What responsibilities do superintendents have regarding school safety and student discipline?

District school superintendents are required to:

- ❖ Recommend to the district school board plans for the proper accounting, attendance, and control of students and for the proper attention to the health, safety, and welfare of students.⁴⁶
- ❖ Annually report to the Department of Education (DOE) each incidence of a teacher's withholding of consent for a removed student to return to the teacher's class and the disposition of the incident.⁴⁷
- ❖ Give written notice of the student's charges and rights to due process to parents when recommending expulsion.⁴⁸
- ❖ Annually provide safety and security improvement recommendations to the district school board, based on the district's annual self-assessment of current safety and security practices. The superintendent's recommendations must be annually considered by the district school board at a public meeting.⁴⁹
- ❖ Annually report to the Commissioner of Education the safety and security self-assessment results and school board action within 30 days after the district school board meeting.⁵⁰

What authority do school bus drivers have regarding student safety and discipline on school buses?

The school bus driver is required to control students when they are on the school bus. The driver has no authority for student behavior when students are waiting at the school bus stop or are en route to or from the school bus stop, except when the bus is present at the bus stop.⁵¹ If an

⁴² Section 1012.32(2), F.S. Both instructional and noninstructional school personnel who are hired or contracted to fill positions that require direct contact with students are required to undergo level two background screening and a complete set of fingerprints must be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the school or school district who is trained to take fingerprints. These school personnel must undergo such screening every five years. Section 1012.465(2), F.S.; *see also* s. 1012.56, F.S.

⁴³ Section 1006.07(1)(a), F.S.

⁴⁴ Section 1006.07(3), F.S.

⁴⁵ *See* s. 943.0542, F.S.

⁴⁶ Section 1006.08(1), F.S.

⁴⁷ Section 1003.32(6)(b), F.S.

⁴⁸ Section 1006.08(1), F.S.

⁴⁹ Section 1006.07(6), F.S.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ Section 1006.10(3), F.S.

emergency occurs due to the conduct of students on the bus, the school bus driver may take necessary steps to protect the students on the bus.⁵²

School bus drivers are not required to operate a bus when one or more students pose a clear and present danger to the safety of the operator or the other students, or the safety of the bus while in operation. District school boards must have measures in place to protect the school bus driver from threats or physical injury.⁵³ Should a student engage in violent or unsafe actions while riding the school bus, the district school board must take corrective measures to ensure that such actions are not repeated prior to reassigning the student to the bus.⁵⁴ District school boards are authorized to use transportation, school safety, or Florida Education Finance Program funds to provide added security for buses transporting disruptive or delinquent students to and from school or other educational activities.⁵⁵

What is a code of student conduct?

Each district school board must adopt a code of student conduct⁵⁶ for elementary schools and for middle and high schools. The code must be:

- ❖ Based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the district school board.⁵⁷
- ❖ Distributed to teachers, school personnel, students, and parents at the beginning of the school year and made available in the student handbook or similar publication.⁵⁸
- ❖ Discussed in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and parent and teacher association or organization meetings at the beginning of the school year.⁵⁹

The code of student conduct must include, but is not limited to:

- ❖ Consistent policies and specific grounds for disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and any disciplinary action that may be imposed for the possession or use of alcohol on school property or while attending a school function, or for the illegal use, sale, or possession of controlled substances as defined in ch. 893, F.S.⁶⁰
- ❖ Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including corporal punishment.⁶¹
- ❖ An explanation of the rights and responsibilities of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities.⁶²

⁵² Section 1006.10(4), F.S.

⁵³ Section 1006.10(5), F.S.

⁵⁴ Section 1006.10(7), F.S.

⁵⁵ Section 1006.10(6), F.S.

⁵⁶ Section 1006.07(2), F.S.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ Section 1006.07(2), F.S.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Section 1006.07(2)(a), F.S.

⁶¹ Section 1006.07(2)(b), F.S.

⁶² Section 1006.07(2)(c), F.S.

- ❖ Notice that certain offenses are grounds for disciplinary action and may result in the imposition of criminal penalties.⁶³

What is the zero tolerance policy in Florida?

Each district school board is required to adopt a policy of zero tolerance for crime, substance abuse, and victimization by students.⁶⁴ School districts are required to adopt zero-tolerance policies⁶⁵ that:

- ❖ Define criteria for reporting to a law enforcement agency any act that occurs whenever or wherever students are within the jurisdiction of the district school board.⁶⁶
- ❖ Define acts that pose a serious threat to school safety and petty acts of misconduct.⁶⁷
- ❖ Minimize the victimization of students, staff, or volunteers, including taking all steps necessary to protect the victim of any violent crime from any further victimization.⁶⁸
- ❖ Establish a procedure that provides each student with the opportunity for a review of the disciplinary action imposed pursuant to s. 1006.07, F.S.⁶⁹

The policy must require students found to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled for a period of not less than one year and to be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system:

- ❖ Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in ch. 790, F.S., to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school.
- ❖ Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss. 790.162 and 790.163, F.S., respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.⁷⁰

⁶³ Section 1006.07(2), F.S.

⁶⁴ Section 1006.13(1), F.S.

⁶⁵ In July 2007, Governor Charlie Crist authorized the creation of the Blueprint Commission charged with developing recommendations to reform Florida's juvenile justice system. The commission issued its report in January 2008 and reported that zero tolerance laws and policies were intended to target more serious offenses involving weapons, drugs, or violent acts. Schools expanded the use of zero tolerance policies to include other less serious offenses and behaviors, resulting in large numbers of youth being referred to the juvenile system. In 2006-07, 16% of all referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice came from Florida's schools and 66% of those referrals were for misdemeanors, the most common being disorderly conduct and misdemeanor assault and battery (fighting). Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Blueprint Commission Report, *Getting Smart About Juvenile Justice in Florida* at 18 (Jan. 2008), available at http://www.djj.state.fl.us/blueprint/documents/Report_of_the_Blueprint_Commission.pdf; see also ch. 2009-53, L.O.F.

⁶⁶ Section 1006.13(2)(a), F.S.

⁶⁷ Section 1006.13(2)(b) and (c), F.S.

⁶⁸ Section 1006.13(2)(d), F.S.

⁶⁹ Section 1006.13(2), F.S.

⁷⁰ Section 1006.13(3), F.S.; see also the Gun-Free Schools Act, reauthorized by Title IV, Part A, Subpart 3, Section 4141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB; Public Law 107-110), <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html> (last visited May 6, 2010).

Any such expulsion may be imposed with or without continuing educational services. A district school superintendent may consider the one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request that the district school board modify the requirement by assigning the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school if such modification is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system.⁷¹

Additionally, each district school board's zero tolerance policy must:

- ❖ Provide that any student found to have committed crimes upon any elected official or school district employee must be expelled or placed in an alternative school setting or other program, as appropriate.⁷²
- ❖ Prohibit students found to have committed certain felony offenses against another student from attending the same school or riding on the same school bus as a victim or a victim's sibling.⁷³

District school boards are required to enter into agreements with the county sheriff's office and local police department which specify the guidelines for ensuring that acts posing a serious threat to school safety, whether committed by a student or an adult, are reported to a law enforcement agency. In addition, district school boards are required to adopt a cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to establish guidelines for ensuring that any "no contact order" entered by a court is reported and enforced and that all of the necessary steps are taken to protect the victim of the offense.⁷⁴

Florida law also provides that zero-tolerance policies are not intended to require petty acts of misconduct and misdemeanors to be reported to a law enforcement agency.⁷⁵ Such acts or misdemeanors include, but are not limited to, disorderly conduct, disrupting a school function, simple assault or battery, affray,⁷⁶ theft of less than \$300, trespassing, and vandalism of less than \$1,000.⁷⁷

Does Florida law address bullying and harassment in public schools?

Yes. In 2008, the Legislature enacted the "Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act" to prohibit the bullying or harassment of any public kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) student or employee during a public K-12 education program or activity or a school-related or school-sponsored program or activity; on a public K-12 school bus; or through a public K-12 computer, computer system, or computer network.⁷⁸

The act defines the terms "bullying" and "harassment" as follows:

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² Section 1006.13(5), F.S.

⁷³ Section 1006.13(6)(a), F.S.

⁷⁴ Section 1006.13(4)(a) and (6)(b), F.S.

⁷⁵ Section 1006.13(1), F.S.

⁷⁶ "Affray" means a fight between two or more people in a public place that disturbs the peace. Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (2010), <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/affray> (last visited May 24, 2010).

⁷⁷ Section 1006.13(4)(c), F.S.

⁷⁸ Chapter 2008-123, L.O.F.

- ❖ Bullying: Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students, which may involve teasing; social exclusion; threat; intimidation; stalking; physical violence; theft; sexual, religious, or racial harassment; public humiliation; or destruction of property.
- ❖ Harassment: Threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of computers (data or software), or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that causes reasonable fear of harm to person or damage to property; substantially interferes with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.⁷⁹

The act further specifies that bullying and harassment include:

- ❖ Retaliating against a student or school employee for reporting bullying or harassment;
- ❖ Reporting bullying or harassment, which reporting is not made in good faith; and
- ❖ Perpetuating bullying or harassment with the intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause physical harm to a student or school employee by incitement or coercion; use of (or providing access to) a school district's computer, computer system, or computer network; or conduct substantially similar to bullying or harassment.⁸⁰

In July 2008, DOE, as required by the act, developed a model policy prohibiting bullying and harassment available to all school districts.⁸¹ Thereafter, each school district was required to adopt by December 1, 2008, a bullying and harassment policy that substantially conforms to that model policy.⁸² A school district's policy may provide separate discrimination policies for different categories of students, but all students must be equally protected under the policy from bullying and harassment. A school district must have included students, parents, teachers, administrators, school staff, volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement agencies in the development of the policy.⁸³ Also, as required by the act, DOE approved each school district's model policy by the 2009-10 academic year. Distribution of Safe Schools funding to districts was made contingent upon DOE's approval of submitted policies with the passage of the 2008 law.⁸⁴

Annually, the Commissioner of Education must submit a report on the implementation of s. 1006.147, F.S., relating to the prohibition of bullying and harassment, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must also include data relating to the school district policies prohibiting bullying and harassment.⁸⁵

⁷⁹ Section 1006.147(3)(a) and (b), F.S.

⁸⁰ Section 1006.147(3)(d), F.S.

⁸¹ Section 1006.147(5), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *Model Policy against Bullying and Harassment* (July 31, 2008), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/doc/modelpolicy.doc>; Technical Assistance Paper: *Guidance Related to the Development of a District Policy Against Bullying and Harassment*, (2008), available at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5160/tapbullyingpolicy.pdf>.

⁸² Section 1006.147(4), F.S.

⁸³ Section 1006.147(4), F.S.

⁸⁴ Section 1006.147(8), F.S.; telephone conference, staff, Office of Safe Schools, Florida Department of Education (May 24, 2010).

⁸⁵ Section 1006.147(9), F.S.

What are school safety officers and school resource officers?

A school safety officer is a certified law enforcement officer who may be employed by a district school board or law enforcement agency. A school safety officer has and must exercise the power to make arrests for violations of law on district school board property. The officer may also make arrests off school board property if the law violation occurred on such property and may carry weapons when performing his or her official duties. A school safety officer's salary may be paid jointly by the district school board and the law enforcement agency, as mutually agreed.⁸⁶

A school resource officer is a law enforcement officer who is employed by a law enforcement agency. School resource officers abide by district school board policies and consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal. They are responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by the school resource officer, which are part of the regular instructional program of the school, are under the principal's direction.⁸⁷

Do districts receive funding for school safety programs?

Yes. Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, the distribution of safe schools funds provided to a school district is contingent upon and payable to the school district upon the school district's compliance with all reporting procedures required under the provisions regarding the prohibition of bullying and harassment.⁸⁸ In FY 2010-11, \$67.1 million was appropriated for Safe Schools funding.⁸⁹ Each district receives \$65,263 and the remaining funds are allocated by a formula based on the Florida Crime Index and each district's share of the state's total unweighted student enrollment. Proviso language defines Safe Schools activities as:

- ❖ After school programs for middle school students;
- ❖ Improvements to enhance the learning environment, including implementation of conflict resolution strategies;
- ❖ Alternative school programs for adjudicated youth;
- ❖ Suicide prevention programs; and
- ❖ Other improvements to make the school a safe place to learn.⁹⁰

How does Florida keep track of the safety incidents that occur at schools?

The School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System assists schools, districts, and staff of the DOE in assessing the extent and nature of problems in school safety.⁹¹ The SESIR System requires schools to report 23 types of serious safety incidents that occur on school

⁸⁶ Section 1006.12(2), F.S.

⁸⁷ Section 1006.12(1), F.S.

⁸⁸ Section 1006.147(8), F.S.

⁸⁹ Specific Appropriation 78, s. 2, ch. 2010-152, L.O.F.

⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁹¹ Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools, *Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data, 2007-2008*, at 3, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/schoolsafety/Documents/SESIRIntro0708.pdf>.

grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events. SESIR data are reported statewide and by district within the *Florida Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline*. DOE also collects annual data on the types and number of discipline actions administered when students violate school or district rules. The three reported discipline actions are in-School Suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions. Data are reported statewide and by district.⁹² Definitions of incident types are not meant to match the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Uniform Crime Report, nor are they intended to be an additional reporting system for law enforcement.⁹³ From the 2005-06 academic year through the 2007-08 academic year, the overall number of school district-reported safety and crime incidents decreased from 33.83 incidents per 1,000 students to 28.51 incidents per 1,000 students.⁹⁴

Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Office of Safe Schools

(850) 245-0416

<http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

⁹² *Id.*

⁹³ Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools, *Schoolwide Discipline and Climate, SESIR, 2008-2009 SESIR Poster, SESIR Codes and Definitions*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/pdf/2008-09-SESIR-Poster.pdf>.

⁹⁴ Florida Department of Education, Office of Safe Schools, *Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data, 2007-2008*, available at <http://www.fldoehub.org/schoolsafety/Pages/SESIRTotals.aspx>.

